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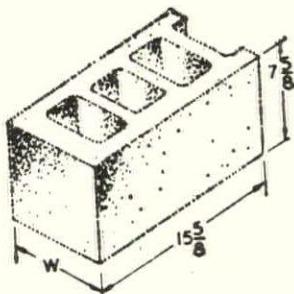
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NOVEMBER, 1950

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COVER PICTURE

Corridor of classroom addition to the Conant Elementary School in Concord, N. H., erected in 1949 by Foster & Bamford, Inc., General Contractor, from plans by Lyford & Magenau, Architects.

The latter say that they still have a few photographs on file suitable for use as cover pictures, in the absence of submissions by any of you other architects. Come, now! Either you just don't care, or you haven't got the stuff. Would you have our readers believe either of these statements?

This month's cover picture was chosen to illustrate several points relative to code requirements: the plaster walls and ceiling on metal lath over wood construction give the necessary fire resistance; in the foreground is seen the slot which houses a sliding fire door, necessary to separate two areas over a certain maximum square footage, even on the ground floor; at the far end of corridor are seen the fire hose, which must be located within specified distances of all spaces and the directional sign "TO EXIT" with letters of specified size, required to avoid any possibility of confusion. Also visible in the picture are the centrally located drinking fountain and the switch with pilot light for controlling ventilating fan.

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History and Uses of Cork

Of all the diversified materials which an architect specifies, one of the most interesting and versatile is cork.

The outer bark of an evergreen oak, *Quercus Suber*, that grows in the Western Mediterranean region, cork has served the needs of man since antiquity. Before the dawn of the Christian era, according to ancient writers, cork was used as marine buoys, as stoppers for wine jugs, and as an insulating material in footgear. Cork still is used for these purposes today—and for thousands of newer applications, many of them in construction and allied fields.

While the average architect may not be called upon to specify cork as often as wood, brick, concrete and other basic building materials, cork is often the one best solution for many insulating, flooring, acoustical, decorating and other specialized problems, and every architect should be familiar with the properties of this unique substance.

self support combustion, it is compressible and resilient, it is resistant to liquid penetration, buoyant, chemically inert, frictionless and stable. While not a cheap material, it is certainly not expensive when its life is considered.



Photo by Armstrong Cork

Cork acoustical tile being applied to arched ceiling of a memorial amphitheatre.

Most of the remarkable qualities of cork are due to its unusual cellular structure. The cells are tetrakaidecahedral, i.e., 14-sided with no "empty" spaces between the cells which are held together by natural resins. The cell walls are impervious to air and moisture and the cells themselves are filled with still air. This still air prevents the passage of heat, makes the cork lighter than water, and allows the cork to be compressed with very little change in shape except in the direction in which the force is applied.

In America, the early cork industry concentrated only a few of cork's many interesting properties. From about 1830, when Stephen King opened the first American cork factory on Water Street in New York City, until the latter years of the nineteenth century, the output of the industry in this country was confined almost entirely to bottle stoppers and a few natural cork specialties such as marine floats and buoys. Then the insulating qualities of cork began to receive increasing attention. Here and there, houses and breweries used ground cork for insulating purposes, but the modern expansion of the cork industry really began with the fortuitous discovery, about the turn of the century, that granules of cork could be baked into a board form. This corkboard and a similar product made in a form around pipes, valves, tanks, etc.—rapidly came standard for the growing needs of business and industry for dependable, high efficient insulation. Today more than half



Photo by Armstrong Cork Co.

An ancient cork oak tree in its native habitat in the Western Mediterranean Basin.

Cork is unique because of its combination of characteristics. It is low in thermal conductivity, it is little affected by temperature or moisture or atmosphere, it will not offend

world's cork supply is used for insulation purposes: in the walls, floors, and roofs of storage rooms; in buildings and equipment of food and chemical plants, in oil refineries, candy factories, textile mills, in test chambers, in air conditioning systems and practically everywhere that low temperatures—down to 300 degrees below zero, F.—are utilized. Some of the specific advantages of corkboard which are of particular interest to the architect are these: it is light in weight, structurally strong, it is self-supporting to a height of 14 feet; it is free from odor, will not harbor vermin, it is fire retardant, and it provides a base to which finishing ma-

cork was one of the ingredients which the English inventor, Frederick Walton, mixed with oxidized linseed oil when he discovered linoleum in 1863, and ground cork is used today in the manufacture of some types of linoleum. Cork tile, which was developed soon after the turn of the century, is made of cork curlings compressed into a dense mass under a process that brings out the all natural beauty of cork. Cork tile is extremely resilient, quiet, and comfortable under foot and is very decorative. It is especially suitable for libraries, churches, studios and similar applications and a number of architects and decorators use it occ-

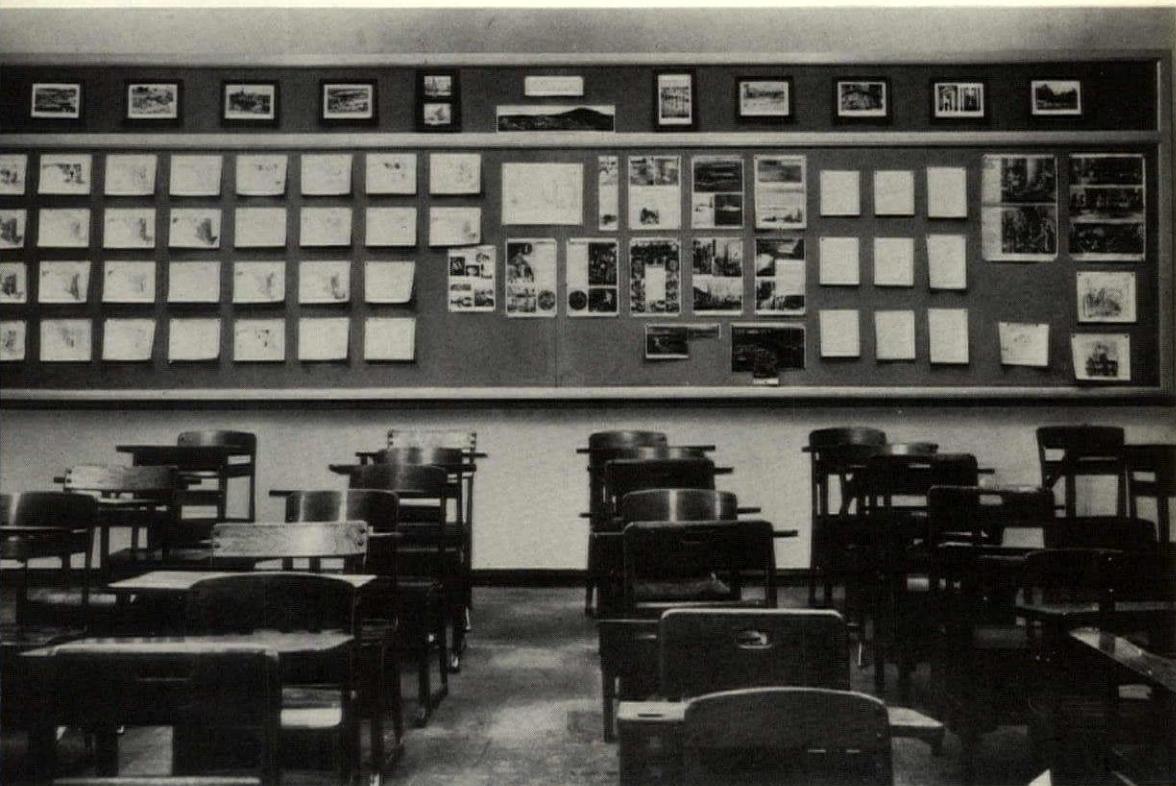


Photo by Armstrong Cork Co.

Cork Bulletin Board in Use in a School Room.

ials firmly key.

In recent years a multiplicity of cheaper insulating materials have been developed and some of them—such as fiberboard insulating sheathing which has substantial structural strength and other properties in addition to insulating value—have won wide acceptance in residential and other applications where the high efficiency of corkboard is not required. But corkboard still is recognized by architects and engineers as the best insulation for projects where service requirements are stringent and the highest quality is demanded.

Another group of products is which cork is important, and which interests all architects, are resilient floor and wall coverings. Ground

casionally as a wainscoting and wall covering and in other ways to obtain unusual decorative effects. Cork sub-flooring is a product used in specialized applications, such as railway cars.

While corkboard and cork tile are, in a manner of speaking, "compositions," the development of true cork composition as it is known today was not completed until about 1912. Unlike the discovery of corkboard, which was accidental, cork composition was a planned product of long years of research and development. The material essentially is made up of small cork granules held together by an adhesive binder in much the same way that the cork cells are held together by the resins in natural cork. How-

ever, cork composition overcomes many of the limitations of size, varying texture, and other irregularities inevitable in natural cork and it may be produced in shapes and densities to fit particular uses. Cork composition was developed, primarily, to meet the needs of the bottling industry for an efficient, inexpensive sealing liner for the inside of crown caps, and the demands of the burgeoning automobile industry for a highly compressible gasketing material; but over the years it has found a host of other widely diversified applications, ranging from printers' blankets to textile roll coverings to miscellaneous novelties.



Photo by Armstrong Cork Co.

Corkboard roof insulation being applied on a high school building.

Within the architect's ken is the use of cork composition as a decorative wall covering, as bulletin board material in schools, and for covering tables, chair backs, and other uses in the furniture field. A very recent development is the addition of color. Formerly made only in natural cork shades, composition is now becoming available in light green and other colors, thereby extending the decorative possibilities of the material.

Another important application of cork in the building field is its use in noise treatment and acoustical correction. As in the insulation field, many acoustical materials have been developed that are less expensive than cork and that are satisfactory for many types of installations, but there are numerous specific problems that can best be solved with cork acoustical tile. For ceilings over swimming pools, in locker rooms, commercial kitchens, high humidity test rooms and other places where humidity and condensation conditions exist, cork, with its high resistance to moisture, is likely to be the only acoustical material that can safely be specified. Cork acoustical tile is an excellent thermal insulation too, and, unlike most other acoustical

materials, it is flexible enough for installation on curved surfaces—an important consideration in buildings with arches or vaulted ceilings.

A form of cork that is similar to but substantially denser than corkboard insulation is frequently employed as a base for motors and other machines to isolate and dampen vibration. The circulating and cooling mechanisms of air conditioning systems commonly mounted on this material, called isolation corkboard, to reduce vibration and noise.

Cork, in its various forms, performs a host of other functions, far too numerous to detail here, and new uses are being discovered almost daily, as research in the laboratory in the field widens the horizons of the industry and as architects, builders, engineers and the public generally become better acquainted with the material. While the world's entire supply of commercial cork comes from an area little larger than the state of New Jersey in the Western Mediterranean Basin, the cork forests generally are managed under an enlightened program of conservation that should assure an adequate supply of this highly useful commodity for the future.

EDMUND R. PURVES HAS VARIED EXPERIENCE

The administrative head of the professional association of architects, Edmund R. Purves was trained as an architect and practiced in Philadelphia for fifteen years. He also held high elective offices in the profession, being president of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects from 1936 to 1938, and one of the ten regional directors of the American Institute of Architects from 1939 to 1941.

Mr. Purves became Washington representative of the American Institute of Architects at the time of the defense emergency in 1941, and upon his return from military service with the Seventh Air Force was appointed as the Institute's Director of Public and Professional Relations. He was named Executive Director in 1949, following the retirement of Edward C. Kemper.

While attending the University of Pennsylvania architectural school in 1933, Mr. Purves interrupted his studies to join the American Field Service with the French Army. Later he served in the American Expeditionary Force. His service in the major engagements was recognized by the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, the Verdun Medal, the Field Service Medal, and the Victory Medal with four Battle Clasps.

ARCHITEXTOPICS

By Eugene F. Magenau, A. I. A.

Most of the people in New Hampshire think that this is a wonderful state in which to live, work and play. The climate is good, though varied, we have many natural resources and attractions, our state and local governments are relatively free of corruption, and we are told that we are definitely not a target for the atom bomb. Our chambers of commerce, our regional and state development associations and other advertisers are continually exhorting other people to move to New Hampshire and take advantage of the excellent conditions that prevail here. But most of us when pinned down are forced to acknowledge such serious defects in our own particular situation as to make things seem better elsewhere.

One such defect is certainly present in architectural practice, namely, why are the best and biggest jobs given to architects outside the state?

Here are some of the substantial jobs awarded to out-of-state architects within the last two years: Home for Aged, Portsmouth, \$100,000; Service Building and Garage, Lancaster; Church, Nashua; School addition, Hillsborough, \$150,000; Bank, Manchester; Theatre, Store and Office Building, Littleton, \$50,000; School addition, East Jaffrey, \$55,000; College Building, Rivier College, Nashua; Bank, Dover; Bank, Concord, \$50,000; Veterans Hospital, Manchester, \$4 million; Insurance Building, Manchester, $\frac{1}{2}$ million; Insurance Building, Keene, \$50,000; Hospitals in Rochester, Hanover, Keene, Plymouth, Crotchet Mountain, Concord, Wolfeboro, Laconia; School, Dover, \$50,000.

When all the engineering projects and smaller architectural jobs are added to the above list, we have a huge volume of work which is being denied the architects and engineers of New Hampshire. If this trend continues, the profession as a whole in New Hampshire is doomed to an ignominious career of scrabbling for crumbs while more and more of our good dollars are drained off to other states.

Here and there an architect manages to revive over provincialism and his practice grows apace. But somebody had to have enough confidence to give him his first big job, then somebody else had to have the confidence to do it again to prove the first one wasn't a fluke; the third and succeeding ones come easier. The trouble in New Hamp-

shire is that we have too many skeptics, too many believers in the prophets from afar.

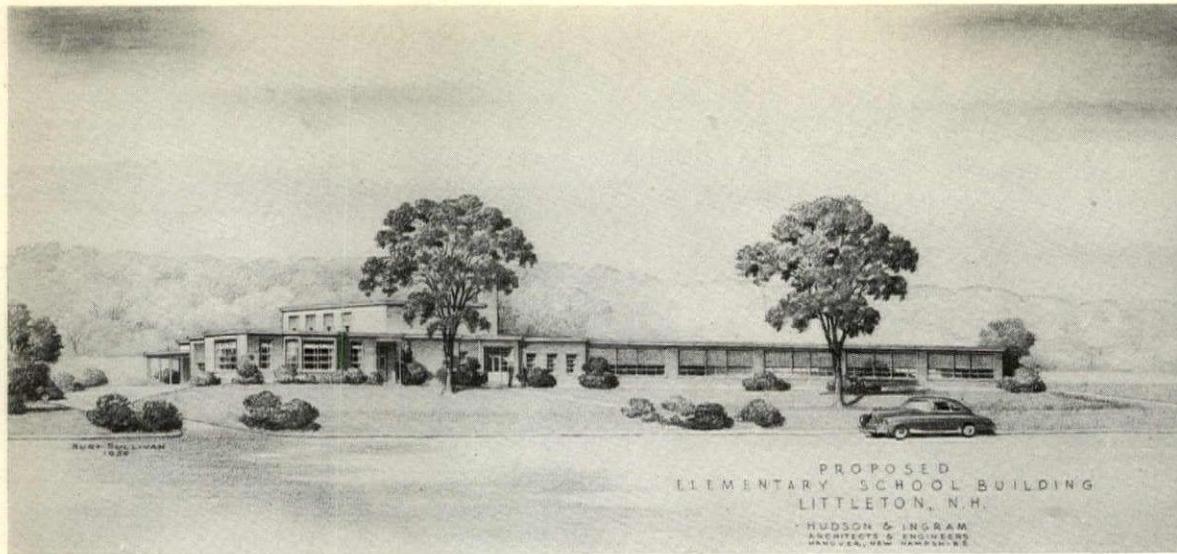
There is evidence of similar faithlessness on other fronts. Quoting from Jack Kane's column in the Sunday News of Nov. 5: "Why is the cream of the Granite State high school grid crop slipping through the fingers of Durham officials and plying its trade in distant lands?" According to Mr. Kane, the Durham officials are "bewildered by the cold shoulder served them by the cream of the high school crop." He concludes that the coaches, the alumni, real and subway, should get behind a project which means "New Hampshire products for New Hampshire gains."

Robert P. Bingham in his recent campaign for the governorship circularized all U. N. H. alumni in part as follows: "So.....I am distressed by the high percentage of alumni that annually leave New Hampshire to seek employment elsewhere. Fundamentally, the state trains the brains of its youth to aid it in building a stronger New Hampshire, not to send it off to build up the economy of other states. Yet the graduates of the University are forced to leave because the state does not offer them employment opportunities that will permit them to stay. Why is this?" Without answering this question, he goes on to suggest how employment opportunities can be increased by (among other things) using the University "to develop a staff of New Hampshire experts that can assist the state government so that we will no longer have any excuse for resorting to outside so-called experts who are necessarily unfamiliar with New Hampshire's problems."

A couple of years ago a top-notch designer with over 20 years' experience with some of the nation's best firms in New York moved to New Hampshire because he liked it the best of all the 48 states in which to get away from the metropolitan whirl. After struggling along for over a year he was finally obliged to seek work in Boston where he got a job with Cram and Ferguson. What did he do there? Along with three other men, he turned out all of the architectural drawings for the $\$2\frac{1}{2}$ million N. H. Fire Insurance Building in Manchester, New Hampshire!

This incident points up the fact that most of the architectural men in New Hampshire have received at least a part of their training in the big city offices. These are the men who actually do the productive work in those large offices. So the feeling that the New Hampshire firms might not be capable of doing important work is absolutely groundless. Those of us who have worked for the

(Continued on page 9)



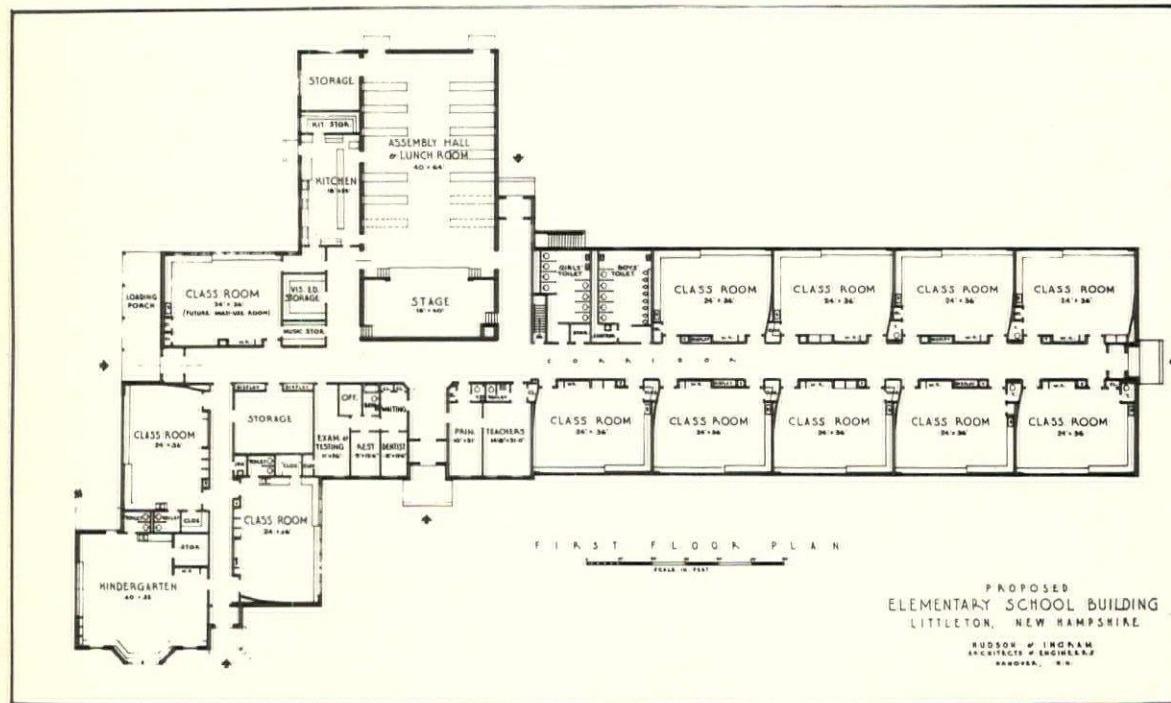
Construction Started on Littleton School

Construction was recently started on a new one story elementary school building in Littleton, New Hampshire, to replace their present two story wooden buildings.

It is planned to house the first six grades and the kindergarten with a good separation of the kindergarten and first grade rooms from the rest of the school.

The outside walls are of 4" of brick backed up with cinder block. The interior partitions are of cinder block. The roof is constructed of bar joists carried on an interior steel frame and the outside walls. Roof deck is wood plank with a 20 year tar and gravel roof covering.

In the final drawings, one classroom was omitted and a shower room was added opening off of the Assembly Hall. The building was designed by Hudson & Ingram, Architects and Engineers, Hanover, New Hampshire. The mechanical engineers Hubbard, Lawless and Blakeley, Boston, Massachusetts. The general contractor is the H. P. Cummings Construction Company, Woodsville, New Hampshire. The subcontractor for heating, plumbing, and venting is J. F. Fitzmorris, Whitefield, New Hampshire; for the electrical work, Fr. T. Cody Company, Hanover, New Hampshire.



ARCHITEXTOPICS

(Continued from page 7)

firms know too how inefficient they are, careless of small details that are time consuming, how tremendous their overhead and how highly paid their men are comparatively. They can afford all this because they skim off the top cream in the job bucket, where the profits are large enough to cover!

every architectural job requires just about many man-hours of work. Is it not obvious that the distant big firm, with profits skimmed off at the top levels, with very high overhead including travel time paid for at high rates, cannot begin to render the same thorough and painstaking service as the smaller New Hampshire firm located near the client? As for design, everyone agrees that the designers are better than others; therefore there might be justification occasionally retaining the outside expert with the big reputation as a **consultant**. But why let the whole job go to outsiders so frequently?

because the State is the largest single "client" the State's policy is important to practicing architects. At present the Department of Public Works appears to have adopted the policy of advertising for architectural services not only in the New Hampshire press but also in other media which are circulated among all architects throughout New England. This is certainly not calculated to build up anybody's confidence in New Hampshire architects. In fact the sole idea of advertising for professional services in such a manner is unique and of dubious value since the Department also circulates by letter all those registered architects who have expressed interest in doing state work. So here we have the spectacle of an official State Agency leaning over backwards to get opportunities for out-of-state work to do public works. Does this help the architectural profession in New Hampshire? Do the other agencies treat the farmers, or recreation people, or industry, or the doctors, or the hairdressers in similar fashion?

finally, it must not be concluded that we architects are blameless in this situation. If public relations are not good, the fault is surely our own. We must take an active part in community affairs so that our neighbors in business and in positions of authority will recognize our abilities. Above all, we must never do a questionable act in our practice and we must utilize every opportunity to build up our own reputations for integrity and skill. Thus will New Hampshire become a still better state in which to work and play.

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CONCORD, N. H.

Special Chapter Meeting Greets President Walker

The Millville Inn, located on the grounds of St. Paul's School in Concord, was the scene of the recent meeting of the New Hampshire Chapter, A. I. A. on October 27, 1950, with 52 members, wives and sweethearts present. The purpose of the meeting was to give New Hampshire architects a chance to meet the guest of honor, Ralph Walker, who had only several days before returned from a trip through Europe in connection with his duties as President of the American Institute of Architects. He offered some very interesting information about his travels while attending the various international meetings of architectural groups.

The audience was very refreshed by Mrs. Walker who injected wit and humor into her husband's anecdotes. She was presented a lovely orchid by the Chapter, while Mr. Walker was given a copy of the beautiful brochure, "This Is Your New Hampshire," published by the State Planning and Development Commission.

Mr. Sulo Tani, State Planning Division Director, was our other guest of honor, who spoke briefly on the mutual desire and advantages of closer cooperation between the Chapter and the Commission.

At this well attended meeting, the last showing of the traveling exhibit was made. This display has been traveling throughout



Photo by Larry Moynihan.

Left to right: Mrs. Walker, President Wimer of N. H. Chapter A. I. A., Pres. Walker of American A. I. A. and Mrs. Wimer, show interest in exhibits at chap meeting.

new exhibit would soon be available showings in some of the towns missed year.

Also on display were several models prominent work being done by the offices Lyford & Magenau of Concord and Tracy Hildreth of Nashua.



Photo by Larry Moynihan, Jr.

President Ralph Walker addresses N. H. Chapter, A. I. A. Seated at head table William H. White, Sec., Mrs. Witmer, Pres. Walker, Pres. Witmer, Mrs. Eugene F. Magenau, Mr. Magenau and Sulo Tani of State Planning and Development Commission.

the state this year to give the people of New Hampshire a chance to view the work of N. H. architects. It was announced that a

Date for Civil Service Examination Extended

The United States Civil Service Commission announces the extension of unassisted examinations for the positions of Appraiser, Mortgage Credit Examiner and Construction Examiner; each of these positions offer compensation from \$3,825 to \$4,600 per year.

These examinations were to have closed November 6, 1950, which has now been extended to November 20, 1950. They are for the purpose of establishing a register of employment with F. H. A. in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire offices.

For additional information consult bulletin board in your Post Office or William F. Baker, State Director, F. H. A., Post Office Building, Manchester, N. H.

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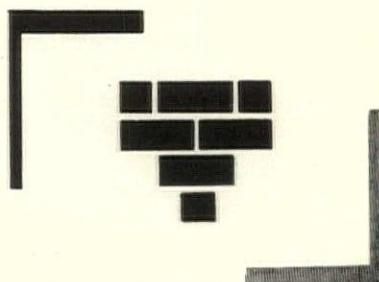
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Chapter to Sponsor Industrial Roster

Speaking before the architects assembled at their meeting of October 27, Mr. Sulo Tani, Planning Director of the State Planning and Development Commission made the suggestion that the Industrial Division would welcome active cooperation from the N. H. Chapter, A. I. A. and from its members.

Pursuing this suggestion, Mr. Merrill Teulon, Director of the Industrial Division, has been contacted and the Executive Board has agreed to sponsor a "N. H. Roster of Industrial Architects."

Questionnaires are being sent to all members of the Chapter, the replies to which will indicate whether they are interested in industrial work, whether they have had experience, whether they are able and willing to speak before groups such as Rotary or Kiwanis Clubs on topics allied to industrial architecture, and what their actual volume of industrial work has amounted to over the past 10 years. This latter figure is to be used only for obtaining an aggregate for the group and will be confidential with respect to individuals.

The Roster will be used by Mr. Teulon to acquaint the management of new industries and also industrial development associations with the names of New Hampshire firms located near proposed plant sites and capable of handling their work. Replies to the questionnaire should be returned to the Public Information Committee, c/o Nicholas Isaak, 922 Elm Street, Manchester, not later than December 1, 1950, along with photographs and/or article for publication in the December N. H. ARCHITECT, which is to be an Industrial Issue.

Mr. Teulon is also supplying the publisher with a list of several hundred N. H. industries which will be added to the mailing list starting with the December issue.

FLINT LEAVES PITTSBURGH PLATE CLASS FOR NEW POST

J. E. Flint, Manager of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Manchester, New Hampshire, for the past five years, has resigned and accepted a position with the Boston Varnish Company with headquarters in Albany, New York.

Flint was born and went to school in Albany and started in the paint business there. Left there in 1930 and has been located in Hartford, Connecticut, New York City, and Manchester. While in Manchester, Flint was active in the Master Painter's Association of New Hampshire, and the Paint Salesmen's Club of New Hampshire.

Gains made in First Nine months in N. H.

BOSTON—New Hampshire construction contract awards in September totalled \$5,110,000, 74 per cent more than the August figure of \$2,931,000 but 27 per cent below the September 1949 total. James A. Harding of F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists.

This brought New Hampshire's total for the first nine months of 1950 to \$28,140,000, 33 per cent higher than the corresponding total for 1949 according to the Dodge figures.

Residential contracts of \$794,000 were 11 per cent higher than August and 71 per cent above September last year to bring the month's residential total for 1950 ahead of the same period 1949 by 32 per cent.

Non-residential awards for September increased 197 per cent over August. Public and private works and utilities decreased from August by 39 per cent.

Contract Awards Show Loss in New England

BOSTON—Construction contract awards in New England in September totalled \$73,702,000, a decrease of 28 per cent from the August total of \$102,375,000 and 13 per cent below September 1949, it was announced today by James A. Harding, district manager of F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists.

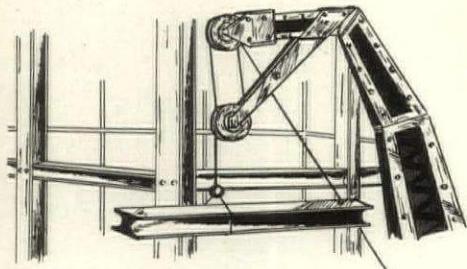
The nine-month construction contract awards total for New England of \$747,298,000 was 60 per cent higher than the same total for the first nine months of 1949.

Residential contracts at \$30,928,000 were 43 per cent below the August figure but 11 per cent higher than September 1949. Non-residential awards totaled \$25,982,000, 21 per cent less than August but 2 per cent higher than September of last year. Public and private works and utilities totalled \$16,792,000 in September, 15 per cent higher than August but 43 per cent below September 1949.

For the nine-month period 1950 as compared with the same period of 1949, the totals were: non-residential \$249,119,000, up 54 per cent; residential \$360,880,000, up 11 per cent; public and private works and utilities \$137,299,000, an increase of 23 per cent.

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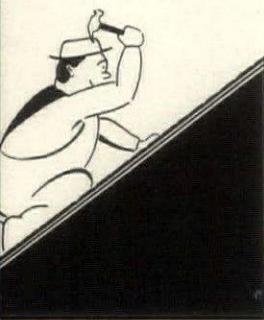


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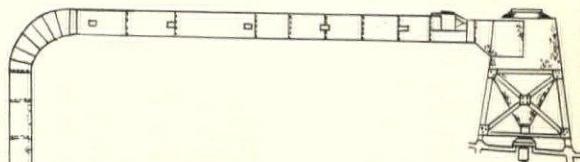
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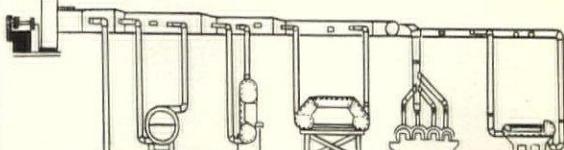
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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

I know we architects are primarily concerned with the facilities incorporated in our designs and plans which will ultimately be used by the people who employ our services entrusting us with the task of getting the most for the least amount of cost.

We consequently, too many times, submerge ourselves into the depths of our personal problems and ignore the significance of what we need to be doing beyond ourselves.

I well recall in my early training—we were taught Architecture as being the mother of all the fine arts—this probably came into belief because Architecture was sheltering and portraying all that was considered best in sculpture, painting, music, science, medicine, government, education and worship.

The necessity for the architects to encompass an understanding of all these arts should make him humble and really has to such a degree, however, he has become fearful of exercising those more important qualities which are inherent in every true architect, namely, romanticism and idealism. Architects have in too many instances lost their rightful heritage, not because others have taken what is theirs but that we have not let our light shine bright enough in the work about us. We have forgotten that we are among the most important persons in the world. That is a dangerous thing to say, because it might be misunderstood. Not because it is not believed, everybody believes he is the most important person in the world. The danger is that the statement will be taken as approval of quite common ways of showing one's importance. I do not believe anybody should do as he pleases. I do not believe anybody should be "all wrapped up in himself." I contest the "divine right" of any individual to disregard everybody but himself. Nevertheless, Architects are among the most important persons in the world. Why? Because, I am romantic enough to believe there are potentialities for good in every man. Because I am realistic enough to know a better world will never be built unless Architects too, and thousands of others like you are recognized as indispensable, significant parts of it.

Yes, we Architects have something worthwhile to contribute for mankind and, therefore, are among the most important persons in the world.

But our importance is less in what we think we are than in what we can make ourselves in service to others. Therefore we are to maintain that important place which is ours in society, it is necessary to begin by discovering everything there is to be learned about people we live among. Confucius said, "Wisdom is to know mankind."

We must never forget that more important than physical facilities are the people who use them. All of our talents to be of worth must first be tried and proven in the woven fabric around the needs of people.

A community of beautifully designed buildings without adequate sewerage facilities or fire and police protection is not a good community to live in.

A magnificent city hall or civic center is of less value to the citizens than clean government. A spectacular boulevard system is little comfort when the water supply is failing.

Which would be of greater value to the citizens—the rebuilding of the central part of the city on the Corbusier principle—or the elimination of soot and smog?

Isn't the elimination of residential slums and their replacement with decent housing and neighborhoods with plenty of play space for little children more important than freeways? Is it more important that we have more and larger hospitals and institutions for the ill, insane and criminal inclined than the promotion of those agents within our communities which will produce ill health, nervous prostration and delinquency? Probably some will say that the things I have mentioned are of no concern to the Architect—that his job is to prepare plans and specifications for the kind of community he thinks should ultimately be built—and let others worry about eliminating soot and cleaning out the Augean Stables. Well, I used to think that way too, but now I have come to realize that you cannot have any opportunity for good Architecture without good government.

We have a contribution to make to the world that no other profession can make. If we don't make it the world will be the loser. Yes—Architects are among the most important persons in the world.

